

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY-99 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT**

**RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT # 67**

I. Project Title: Steamboat Lake Water Lease

II. Principal Investigator: George Smith  
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III. Project Summary:

In 1992, the Recovery Program identified a need to secure storage water in the Yampa River Basin for late summer flow augmentation. Colorado Division of Parks (Parks) secured a change of the water right decree for Steamboat Lake in 1997, which recognized the use of water for instream flows. With the change decree in place, the last obstacle to leasing water from Steamboat Lake was surmounted, and a lease was executed April 17, 1997, between Parks, Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). A lease price of \$16.00 per acre-foot for 2,000 acre-feet of water was negotiated for the five-year term of the lease. During late summer of 1999 flows in the Yampa were monitored closely and when flows dropped to near Service flow recommendations, Parks was notified to begin releasing water from Steamboat Lake at the rate of 40 cfs. The lease was funded in 1999 by funds held at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

IV. Study Schedule: Initial year - 1997, Final year - 2001.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP: **Yampa River Action Plan I.A.3.a.(1).(b)**  
Lease 2,000 acre-feet to augment later summer flows.

VI. Accomplishments: The late summer flows in the Yampa were monitored closely and when flows dropped in early October, Parks was notified to begin releasing water from Steamboat Lake at the rate of 40 cfs. The lease of water from Steamboat Lake is useful in helping stabilize late summer flows in the Yampa River to maintain habitat for Colorado Pikeminnow. The release of water was monitored by the Division Engineer, Parks and the Service.

1999 release schedule: 10/1/99 to 10/25/99 40 cfs 2,000 AF

VII. Recommendations: The current lease expires April 17, 2001 and the Service must notify Parks of our intent to renew the lease 60 days before the lease expires. The Service/Recovery Program should determine if the lease is needed and assign staff to begin discussions on renewing the lease.

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing, the current lease runs from 1997 to 2001.

IX. FY-99 Budget:

A. Funds Provided:	\$32,000
B. Funds Expended:	<u>\$32,000</u>
C. Difference:	\$ 0 All funds were expended in 1999.

X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable

XI. Signed: George Smith December 14, 1999  
Principal Investigator Date

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